

December 26, 1967

Dr. Richard Bronson  
277 Avenue C  
Apartment 6D  
New York, New York 10009

Dear Dr. Bronson:

My trip to New York last October was followed by an extended trip, and this is the first opportunity I have had to reply to your letter of October 28.

I was indeed referring to Gurdon's work, and am sorry about the incorrect reference to skin as the source of somatic nuclei. I don't know if this originated in my own loose talk, or was some other misunderstanding between me and the reported. This point hardly alters the principle in question.

There is a quantitative discrepancy between Gurdon's work and the investigators who have used rana, but there is no actual conflict of observation, and none of my colleagues seems to seriously question the validity of Gurdon's reports. Gurdon has pretty well validated his technique by the use of genetic markers, and other ways of excluding the participation of the radiated nuclei from the development of the amphibian. Again, from the point of view of the use of renucleation for vegetative propagation, it is hardly very important whether the original egg nucleus has been completely destroyed, provided the genetic make-up of the progeny is controlled by the new nucleus.

The closest thing to this line of work in a mammalian system at the present time is being done by Dr. B. Mintz in Philadelphia. I have heard several rumors that enucleation has actually been successfully accomplished, although there are still some loopholes in the data and renucleated mammalian eggs have yet to be reared to term.

I do not have a manuscript of my talk, which was given mainly extemporaneous, but I can and do send you some brief articles that cover the same ground.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

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